

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A print system comprising:

a host computer and a printer for receiving print data from said host computer

5 and printing based on the print data;

print data generation means for generating print data;

reply information issuance means for issuing reply information at a  
predetermined position of print job data containing the print data;

10 print data processing means for interpreting the print data, detecting the reply  
information from the print job data, and returning the reply information to a predetermined  
destination;

print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print data  
processing means; and

15 job processing state monitor means for monitoring a processing state of the  
print job data based on the reply information returned from said print data processing  
means.

20 2. The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said print data processing  
means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after completion of  
processing of the print data.

25 3. The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein if the reply information is  
related to print data concerning print operation, said print data processing means checks  
execution of the print data concerning print operation before returning the reply  
information to the predetermined destination.

4. The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein

5 said print data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination at the return timing specified on the timing specification information.

10 5. The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein

upon reception of the timing specification information, said print data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after completion of processing the print data related to the reply information.

15 6. The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein

20 upon reception of the timing specification information, said print data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after checking processing of the print data concerning print operation related to the reply information.

25 ~~7. The print system as claimed in any of claims 4 to 6 wherein said reply information issuance means issues the reply information and the timing specification~~

~~Sub F1~~  
information so that the print data is placed between the reply information and the timing specification information.

~~Sub F1~~  
5 8. The print system as claimed in claim 7 wherein said reply information issuance means issues the timing specification information and the reply information so that the timing specification information, the print data, and the reply information are processed by said print data processing means in this order.

~~Sub F1~~  
10 9. The print system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the print data concerning print operation is at least any one of a paper feed instruction, a paper eject instruction, a page feed instruction, a line feed instruction, and a carriage return instruction.

~~Sub F1~~  
15 10. The print system as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9 further including reply information detection means for detecting the reply information returned from said print data processing means and sending the detected reply information to said job processing state monitor means.

~~Sub F1~~  
20 11. A printer for printing based on input print data, comprising:  
reception means for receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;

print data processing means for interpreting the print data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning the reply information to a predetermined destination; and

25 print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print data processing means.

12. The printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein said print data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after said print control means completes processing of the print data.

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13. The printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein if the reply information is related to print data concerning print operation, said print data processing means checks that the print data concerning print operation is executed by said print control means before returning the reply information to the predetermined destination.

14. The printer as claimed in claim 13 wherein the print data concerning print operation is at least any one of a paper feed instruction, a paper eject instruction, a page feed instruction, a line feed instruction, and a carriage return instruction.

15. The printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein the print job data further contains timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information, and wherein

said print data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination at the return timing specified on the timing specification information.

16. The printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein the print job data further contains timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information, and wherein

upon reception of the timing specification information, said print data

processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after said print control means completes processing of the print data related to the reply information.

5 ~~17. The printer as claimed in claim 15 or 16 wherein the print job data is formatted so that the print data is placed between the reply information and the timing specification information.~~

10 18. The printer as claimed in claim 17 wherein the print job data is formatted so that the timing specification information, the print data, and the reply information are processed by said print data processing means in this order.

15 19. The printer as claimed in any of claims 11 to 18 wherein said reception means, said print data processing means, and said print control means can operate in parallel.

20 20. A recording medium recording a program for generating print data to be transmitted to a printer, said recording medium recording:

a print data generation function of generating print data based on an input document;

a reply information issuance function of issuing reply information at a predetermined position of print job data containing the print data; and

a job processing state monitor function of monitoring a processing state of the print job data based on the reply information returned from the printer in a format that can be read and understood by a computer.

~~21. The recording medium as claimed in claim 20 wherein said reply~~  
information issuance function issues timing specification information for specifying return  
timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information.

5 22. The recording medium as claimed in claim 20 or 21 further including a  
reply information detection function of detecting the reply information returned from the  
printer and sending the detected reply information to said job processing state monitor  
function.

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